## Message Text

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**ACTION STR-04** 

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /077 W

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O P 230204Z SEP 76 FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1116 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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AMB YEUTTER TO AMB DENT (PASS STR)

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: AUTOMOBILE EXPORT PROBLEM IN JAPAN

- 1. SAITO MET ME AT TOKYO AIRPORT YESTERDAY, AND WE DISCUSSED AUTOMOBILE ISSUE FOR THE FEW MINUTES THAT WE HAD BETWEEN PLANES.
- 2. SAITO STILL CONCERNED ABOUT INABILITY OF TWO SIDES TO WORK OUT DATE OF MANUFACTURE ISSUE. HE SAYS JAPANESE MOT OFFICIALS DISSATISFIED WITH ATTITUDE OF OUR DOT ON THIS QUESTION. THEY SAY THAT JAPAN SUGGESTED VARIOUS COMPROMISES, BUT THAT ALL WERE SUMMARILY REJECTED BY DOT REP ARMSTRONG WHEN LATTER MET WITH THEM IN JAPAN AS FOLLOW-UP TO MY VISIT. ARMSTRONG CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT JAPAN ACCEPT SELF-CERTIFICATION SYSTEM OF U.S. MANUFACTURERS. THOUGH WE HAD IMPRESSION FROM MY EARLIER MEETING IN TOKYO THAT JAPAN WOULD ACCEPT U.S. SELF-CERTIFICATION PROCESS, SAITO STATES THAT THEY MUST HAVE SOMETHING MORE BUT NOT MUCH MORE. WHAT JAPAN NEEDS IS SOME U.S. GOVERNMENT LINKAGE, I.E., NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION OF DATE OF MANUFACTURE, BUT

SOME "OFFICIAL" RECOGNITION OF THE VALIDITY OF THE SELF-CERTIFICATION PROCESS. IF SOME APPROPRIATE STATEMENT OR DOCUMENT ON THIS SUBJECT COULD ROUTINELY ACCOMPANY EACH AUTOMOBILE EXPORTED TO JAPAN, THIS WOULD SATISFY THEIR NEEDS. SUGGEST THAT BILL KELLY FOLLOW UP ON THIS WITH DOT. IF YOU CAN SEND SUGGESTIONS OR INSTRUCTIONS TO ME, I WILL WORK ON THIS ISSUE SATURDAY MORNING IN TOKYO.

3. SAITO ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD CONFERRED AGAIN WITH MOT OFFICIALS ON 45-DAY RESPONSE TO APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF U.S. AUTOS. MOT IS UNWILLING TO MAKE IRONCLAD COMMITMENTS, BUT HE SAYS THEY WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FINALIZE DECISION WITHIN 45 DAYS. MOT WILL DEFINITELY PROVIDE COMMENTS WITHIN 45 DAYS ON ALL SUBMISSIONS, BUT IS NOT WILLING TO GUARANTEE THAT THOSE COMMENTS WILL BE FINAL. SAITO FURTHER STATED THAT MOT IS CONCERNED BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY SUBMISSIONS FROM U.S., NOTWITHSTANDING FACT THAT 77 MODELS PRESUMABLY ARE ROLLING OFF ASSEMBLY LINES. THEY ARE RECEIVING SUBMISSIONS ON EUROPEAN CARS, AND ARE CONCERNED THAT THEY MAY HAVE TROUBLE MEETING 45 DAY OBJECTIVE IF U.S. SUBMISSIONS ARRIVE LATER THAN EVERYONE ELSE. SUGGEST YOU SO INFORM MVMA. AFTER ALL OUR COMPLAINTS ABOUT MOT PROCRASTINATION. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF APPROVAL PROCESS DELAYED BY PROCRASTINATION OF U.S. MANUFACTURERS. UNGER

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